

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENT FORUM HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 24TH NOVEMBER, 2021

MEMBERS: Councillors Katherine Chibah (Associate Cabinet Member (Enfield West)), Saray Karakus and Lindsay Rawlings

Officers: Sarah Cary (Executive Director Place), Doug Wilkinson (Director of Environment and Operational Services), Dominic Millen (Head of Climate Action and Sustainability), Marcus Harvey (Head of Parks, Open Spaces and Leisure), Koulla Panaretou (Governance Officer)

Also Attending: John West (The Enfield Society), Dave Cackle (Enfield Transport Users Group), Paul Hutchinson (Grange Park Conservation Area Study Group), Dennis Stacey (Bush Hill Park Conservation Area Study Group), Andrew Newman (Clay Hill Study Group), Juliet Barnett (Trent Park Conservation Committee)

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and apologies for absence were received from Cllr Mahmut Aksanoglu, Neil Paddon-Smith (Meadway Conservation Area Study Group), Robert Wilson (Hadley Wood Conservation Area Study Group), Ann Bishop-Laggett (Federation of Enfield Residents and Allied Associations).

It was agreed that item 4 (Trent Park Update) be taken before item 3 (Update on COP26).

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest registered in respect of any items on the agenda.

3. AGREE MINUTES DATED 19TH OCTOBER 2021

The minutes of the meeting taken on the 19th October were agreed and the following matters arising were noted:

1. As discussed at the previous meeting, Andrew Newman (Clay Hill Study Group) provided a summing up of the Forum which took place on the 27th July 2021 in respect of the Local Plan, including some views collectively. This document was sent to the Chair who will send this to the Leader and Deputy Leader of the Council, Sarah Cary and other relevant officers.

2. Enforcement - Sarah Cary confirmed that there have been some staffing capacity issues in the Council's enforcement team albeit the service is

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functioning. Cllr George Savva (Cabinet Member, Licensing and Regulatory Services) to be invited to the Forum to provide an update. **ACTION: Koulla**

4. UPDATE ON COP26

RECEIVED an overview on COP26 from Dominic Millen, Head of Climate Action and Sustainability.

The following information was noted:

A. COP26 - is the Annual United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) conference, which includes the Conference of Parties. It started in 1995 so this was the 26th edition.

B. The focus of the Conference was looking at progress since the Paris Agreement in 2016 which aimed to keep the rise in global temperatures to well below 2 degrees Celsius, ideally less than 1.5. Negotiations took place between government officials, political representatives and heads of state with a particular focus on adaptation and resilience, alongside mitigation measures which led to an agreement called the "Glasgow Climate Pact". The key elements of the Pact were:

- Unabated" coal power to be phased down and "inefficient subsidies" for fossil fuels removed.
- Nations urged to set new Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) by 2022.
- No climate reparations but there should be support for a just transition and adaptation.

International carbon trading should deliver "real, verified and additional" emissions removals.

C. Government Net Zero Strategy - to be implemented by 2050, with the UK leading global race and "green and growth" theme. 4 main principals include: biggest polluters pay most, deep cost reductions in low carbon tech, most vulnerable are protected by the government and consumer choice is retained.

D. There are various pathways to achieving this including entirely "clean" electricity and increased hydrogen production. Oil and gas sector to be regulated to reduce emissions. Carbon capture technologies enhanced and UK Emissions Trading Scheme established to be set up..

E. For buildings there is an ambition that no new gas boilers will be sold by 2035, with support for heat pumps as a low carbon alternative.

F. There is a 2030 commitment to end fossil fuel vehicle sales, including moving freight and public transport to zero emission technologies. Also half of all journeys to be walked or cycled by 2030 with funding for bus networks. There is also reference to zero emission flights..

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G. Other areas include low carbon farming support, peat and woodland restoration, as well as funding for free separate food waste collections for all households by 2025.

H. Estimate is that an average of £50 to £60 billion is required per annum, most of which from the private sector, with the government creating an attractive investment environment, taking a strategic approach. Analysis shows benefits far outweigh costs and doing nothing leads to economic meltdown.

I. Underpinning the Strategy are various principles including retaining consumer choice, while making the green choice the easiest and most affordable.

J. The Strategy also recognises the important role that local authorities have in delivering national ambitions, with examples of what this entails. It was noted that the Council is already delivering against these.

The following comments were received:

1. A suggestion was received to encourage best practice, starting in schools with tree planting events, improving recycling advice, encouraging children to collect plastic bottles etc.

In response, it was noted that there is a schools' climate action network and climate action handbook which aim to support schools, including by embedding good behaviour practice with ideas for lessons and planning etc and this will help influence parents also.

2. Following on, will there be a residents' handbook available and how many hits have the climate action pages on the Council's website had?

In response, it was noted that there is already a wide range of information to help people reduce their emissions and live more sustainable lives. However, Enfield specific resources would be useful and this is something that will be looked into. On the website, the numbers of page views is not something that has been looked at but could help inform future public facing activity.

3. Is Enfield talking to other local authorities about best practice and how is success being monitored?

In response, Enfield is actively involved in various networks and through these, best practice is being shared across local authorities.

In terms of monitoring, a Climate Action Progress Report and Carbon Emissions Review were published in September. There has also been carbon disclosing reporting with the extensive sustainability and climate action work carried out by Enfield Council being awarded an A- overall

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rating by the internationally recognised environmental data charity CDP.

4. In respect of de-carbonising buildings, what plans are there.

The Council has taken the lead, alongside Waltham Forest for the Retrofit London programme which has a target of buildings being an average of EPC B by 2030. The current focus is on domestic properties and an action plan has been developed. There is also a programme to improve Council housing using various funding sources. For corporate buildings the Council has secured significant Government funding to make improvements to the fabric (for example insulation), decarbonise heat (heat pumps and connections to the Energetik network) and install solar panels.

5. There is evidence that residents have not grasped the concept of using the correct bins for recycling, especially in Parks.

There are ongoing campaigns around waste and recycling which include information about the appropriate receptacles for different items.

6. It is difficult for residents to translate global problems nearer home.

This something that is recognise so communications are focusing more on local and individual action. This includes messaging encouraging residents to re-use and recycle.

7. The power that Council management have to make change and gain focus was questioned and how can objectives be achieved.

In response, the Climate Change Action Plan has been prepared by Officers and Councillors with expertise to shape the document. All decision making is done democratically and is transparent and measurable, with the use of consultations, engagement and collaborative working.

8. An update on the bottle deposit scheme and fly-tipping was requested.

In response, the government are currently look at these issues nationally. It is not directly linked to the fortnightly collection but more to do with the pandemic and many more people working from home and producing more waste than usual. It is deemed that residents do have the correct capacity in their bins if used correctly. The County Courts are now re-opened and although there is a backlog, cases of fly-tipping are now being dealt with.

9. Is there a clear line what central and local government are involved in relating to policy decision making?

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In response, the Climate Action Plan contains targets both corporately and borough wide and the Council are doing all they can to achieve what is deliverable.

5. TRENT PARK UPDATE

RECEIVED an update on Trent Park from Marcus Harvey (Head of Parks, Open Spaces and Leisure). The following topics were discussed:

Showground: - this 10-acre space is situated adjacent to Limes Avenue and is utilised for events programme for Parks. Remedial works have been necessary after public events this summer and return to public use expected February 2022.

Thames Water: currently redirecting water project taking place. There is a temporary pipeline erected with a permanent underground installation due by July 2022 outside the memorial gardens.

Car Parks: There are two accessible car parks at Cockfosters Road entrance, the main one has a 60-car capacity and repairs to which started 23rd Nov 2021 in three phases to allow continued use, works anticipated to take four weeks. The Woodland car park having a 70-car capacity, with 4-week repair schedule (full closure) proposed for early 2022 start, subject to planning permission.

- Remaining car parks at Hadley Road (repairs to be completed by early 2022, directly by LBE) and Snakes Lane (closed to public during Berkley Homes development and owned by Berkley homes also).

Improved cycle storage and security will be considered as part of the overall scheme, of repairing the car parks at Cockfosters entrance

Natural England (Higher Level Stewardship): Trent Park has a shrubland maintenance in place with the current agreement with Natural England which ends in 2021 with a review meeting scheduled for 6th December. Other locations included in agreement include Oakwood, Forty Hall and Hillyfields and with the support of Natural England we will look to expand on the agreement

IN RESPONSE, the following comments were received:

1. Following the public events on the showground area of the Park this summer, when remedial work has been necessary, the future events schedule has not yet been agreed. Although the event's organisers paid for the damages, it has meant the area has been out of use for many months now.

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The Council's focus has been to get the ground back to a reasonable condition, weather permitting.

2. In respect of Thames Water, it was noted that the reservoirs were based underwater near the water tower. Driving a temporary road under the water tower did not account for enough arboriculture surveys to determine the damage that might be caused. Enfield to speak to Thames Water and provide a thorough reporting line, with tree stocks to be replaced. **Action: Marcus**

Water Tower needs screening from industrial equipment. Dennis Stacey to share consultation report with Marcus. **Action: Dennis Stacey**

3. Marcus Harvey to address any issues with the cleaning and restocking of the toilets.

4. It has not been decided yet how many cycle storage areas are to be installed. The areas have been confirmed as adjacent to the toilets or Cockfosters Car Park.

5. In the Parks Consultation, the document shows events policy is still in place. This is because Natural England provide a small fee and small income for Enfield and focuses on best practice. The Parks management plan is audited by Natural England.

6. DATE OF NEXT MEETING AND NOTE THE UPDATED WORK PROGRAMME

The next date for Environment Forum meeting was confirmed as Wednesday 12th January 2022.

The updated Environment Forum Work Programme was noted and agreed.